

# L5R: Winter Court RPG

## Play By Post Review

### Contents

CONTENTS .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	1
CREDITS .....	1
<b>Characters of Note .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Flow of Rice .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Notable Events .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Romance and Marriage .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Treaties .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Final Thank You. ....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>More About L5R .....</b>	<b>16</b>

### Introduction

Over the winter of 2006 and 2007, Alderac Entertainment Group broke new ground in player interaction in gaming with the **Legend of the Five Rings: Winter Court**. This play by post forum game allowed players of the L5R RPG the chance to take part in the development of the Empire during the time when Rokugan settles in for the winter, and the battlefield of politics takes over. As you will see in this report, many characters had triumph and tragedy, romance and death. Some brought their Clans great glory, and others great shame. All of them have changed the face of Rokugan.

### Credits

Report Writer/WC Head Judge .....	Rob Hobart	Layout .....	Todd Rowland
Editing .....	Shawn Carman, Fred Wan	L5R RPG Line Developer .....	Doug Sun
Game Masters .....	Heroes of Rokugan	Brand Manager .....	Todd Rowland
Artist .....	Drew Baker	President .....	John Zinser



[www.l5r.com](http://www.l5r.com)







## Characters of Note

Although there were many well-known people at Winter Court, there were also a number of lesser-known samurai who rose to prominence through their actions this winter.

**Doji Jorihime:** A Crane shugenja-ko and courtier, niece to Doji Seishiro. Jorihime made a huge contribution to maintaining the Crane Clan's position after some disastrous early incidents in court. She played a major role in negotiating the Clan's treaties and also became

a major focus of romantic efforts by several other Court attendees. The Oriole daimyo admired her so much he actually gifted her with the matching katana to the Golden Oriole Wakizashi. Conversely, her strong performance prompted the Scorpion Clan to make efforts to dishonor or destroy her, at one point using a forged letter from Doji Domotai to accuse her of being a Gozoku. Despite this, she not only survived to the end of winter, but succeeded in marrying her true love, Doji Nagori.



**Kakita Himoto:** A militant fire shugenja and a bitter enemy to the Shadowlands, Kakita Himoto spent much of the winter attempting to create a coalition of samurai to work together against the Shadowlands (including such notable figures as Hiruma Todor and Ikoma Korin). They dedicated themselves to opposing Daigotsu Soetsu's insidious influence in court, and after Winter Court ended they launched a mission to purify the village of Oni Mura. Himoto also filled in for Jorihime in court when she was under suspicion.

**Doji Asuki:** An Emerald Magistrate driven to discover the truth behind the Crane-Dragon war. Asuki spent much of the winter aggressively pursuing this matter and at one point nearly left the Court to go investigate in Dragon lands. He participated in several other criminal investigations at Winter Court, waged political warfare against the Scorpion, accompanied Bayushi Norachai to the capital for a week, and also had a torrid romance with his fellow Emerald Magistrate Hida Shara, which has sparked rumors that they may soon marry.

**Kitsuki Sasuke:** A neurotic, obsessive-compulsive Kitsuki investigator. Sasuke spent much of the winter serving as yoriki to Doji Asuki, and accompanied him to the capital near the end of winter. Sasuke also participated in several criminal investigations (and leaked information from one of them), pursued a fruitless romance with Doji Jorihime, and persuaded the Otomo to let him train their house guards in the Kitsuki method.

**Kitsuki Kouri:** A more "traditional" Kitsuki investigator than his kinsman Sasuke, Kouri also served as a yoriki (to Hida Shara) and participated actively in all of the criminal investigations and mysteries at Winter Court, as well as playing a useful roll in the clan's diplomatic efforts. He developed an elaborate network of allies and received many gifts from other, more prominent, members of the court. He developed a close friendship with Seppun Kiharu and, as a result, at the end of winter was offered the chance to train with the Miya Herald.

**Ikoma Tatsunori:** A heroic and honorable Lion bushi who received the blessings of Bishamon. When his lord Ikoma Korin departed for the capital, Tatsunori accompanied him, leaving Winter Court to join the defense of Toshi Ranbo.

**Ikoma Kyoro:** A Lion spymaster and master forger, Kyoro served as yoriki to none other than the old warhorse Tsuruchi Kaya. He used his forgery skills in a variety of ways, creating false documents for the Lion Clan, deciphering the authors of other documents, and unmasking the Scorpion forgery that tried to destroy Doji Jorihime.

**Yoritomo Okuma:** A Mantis shugenja, storyteller, and self-described "hopeless romantic" who served as yoriki to Yasuki Miliko. Okuma made numerous storytelling efforts in Court, negotiated the Mantis Clan's treaty with the Tsi family, and worked with Seppun Kiharu to expand the influence of the Brotherhood of Shinsei. He also leaked information from an investigation in an effort to destroy the villainous Kasuga Taman, an action which earned him several enemies (in fact, the Tortoise Clan daimyo was plotting to have him assassinated after Winter Court).

**Agasha Shouhei:** A Phoenix courtier and artisan (sculptor), Shouhei was one of the most active courtiers and gossips at Winter Court, participating in innumerable discussions, tournaments, and negotiations. One of his many sculptures became the centerpiece of a shrine to Toturi III built jointly by Kaukatsu and Hoketuhime. Another of his works, commissioned by the Crab, caused him to undergo a spiritual journey and become Enlightened. Throughout Winter Court he pursued an awkward, fumbling romance with Yoritomo Yashinko, and at the end of the Court they were married as part of a Phoenix-Mantis reconciliation treaty. Shouhei took the Yoritomo name and joined the Mantis Clan.

**Bayushi Hazame:** A Scorpion bushi with an idealistic outlook, driven by a deep desire to see the Scorpion become a "pure" Clan. Hazame served as a bodyguard for K'mee for much of Winter Court, and also became a close friend to the Lion Clan, showing clear sympathy for their ideals (and clear hostility to the Unicorn). When Kaukatsu punished him for this, he suffered a crisis of conscience and ultimately cast aside his oaths of fealty to the Scorpion and became a ronin, seeking employment with the Lion.

**Kakita Bikan:** This seemingly minor Crane courtier was actually a Shosuro actor and spy, Shosuro Eiriasu, who had infiltrated the Crane delegation. Eiriasu's spying activities played a major role in the Crane Clan's problems during the early weeks of Winter Court, and forced the Crane to adopt extremely paranoid and cautious methods in order to keep their negotiations secure. They made repeated efforts to unmask him but never succeeded. At the end of Winter Court, he succeeded in marrying Yasuki Miliko (potentially the next Yasuki daimyo), placing a Scorpion double-agent high in the ranks of the Crab.

**Kasuga Taman:** A Tortoise smuggler-turned-courtier, a gossip-monger, and probably the slimiest person at Winter Court, the charming and friendly Taman was a fixture throughout the court, negotiating numerous treaties for the Minor Clan Alliance. He served the Tortoise Clan so well that his daimyo, Kasuga Taigen, named him as karo. He also committed a murder, however, killing a sailor in order to cover up smuggling a crystal sword that he gave as a gift to Otomo Hoketuhime. Later in the





winter, Taman became the primary organizer for court entertainments such as kabuki plays and a masquerade ball. He also spent considerable time meeting with Daigotsu Soetsu, and seems to have harbored the ambition of become an ambassador to the Lost. Despite being the focus of enmity for many individuals and even entire Clans (the Lion hated him completely), Taman survived the winter, thanks in part to a network of friends and allies which included Hoketuhime, Doji Tanitsu, and Toritaka Tatsune. At winter's end, in "punishment" for his murder of the sailor, he was appointed to spend six months as advisor to the notorious painter Otomo Taro (the Ugly).

**The Fallen Man, Soshi Ukyo:** Soshi Ukyo, a middle-aged shugenja and courtier haunted by the loss of his family to the Rain of Blood, proved to be an extremely effective and active courtier for the Scorpion. Ukyo was so useful to the Clan that his daimyo, Soshi Uidori, named him as her karo, and he actively assisted the Clan in a variety of ways, including magical spying, rumor spreading, and forming false friendships with members of other Clans. He undertook a spirit quest to redeem his wife's lost soul, and also saw a new romance blossom with Hoshi Oki. At the end of Winter Court, he heroically sacrificed his life to help defeat the escaping Daigotsu Soetsu.

## The Flow of Rice

Several Clans entered Winter Court with food shortages, in some cases severe ones.

### Crab Clan - Needed 80,000 koku

From the Crane: 50k

From the Mantis: 20k

From the Minor Clan Alliance: 6666

From the Unicorn: 15k

### Dragon Clan - Needed 65,000

koku

From the Mantis: 15k

From the Minor Clan Alliance: 6666

From the Crane (via the Scorpion): 5k

From the Unicorn: 5k

### Phoenix Clan - Needed 20,000 koku

From the Crane: 30k

### Scorpion Clan - Needed 90,000 koku

From the Crane: 5k (actually 10k, but Scorpion gave half to the Dragon)

From the Minor Clan Alliance: 6666

From the Unicorn: 30k

From the Mantis: 5k (good-faith gesture for uncompleted treaty)

Since the Scorpion were having so much trouble meeting their actual rice requirements, they pursued a number of alternative options for acquiring food supplies:

- After his exile from court, Shosuro Higatsuku made extensive efforts to seek out rice on the black market.

- Shosuro Eiriasu, in his guise as Kakita Bikan, sniffed out the routes which the Crane would use to deliver their gifts of rice to the Crab Clan. The hope was that the Scorpion might be able to intercept some of these shipments and steal them for their own use.

- The Scorpion also tried to negotiate a treaty with Yoritomo Singh to acquire food from the Ivory Kingdoms. In return, they offered the services of their shugenja to treat the poisoned Maharashtra and to create nemuranai for the Kingdoms.

It is interesting to note that the Lion – who did not actually need any rice – got 20,000 koku from the Crane, to strengthen their forces against the Unicorn.

## Notable Events

### The Lion-Ratling Alliance

During Winter Court, the Lion learned that the ratlings had rescued the Kitsus, Nintai. As a result, they petitioned the Empress for permission to create a shrine to Tek'tir in the capital, and also for permission to conduct pilgrimages to the Shinomen to visit Nintai. Their initial attempt to present these petitions to Otomo Hoketuhime, for her to convey to the Empress, were disrupted by an aggressive Mantis courtier. Eventually, however, the Empress visited court and the Lion successfully presented their petitions to her.

A side effect of this event is that the Lion became aware of the Nezumi-Unicorn conflict, thereby further increasing the enmity between the Lion and Unicorn,



and prompting the Lion to fear that the Unicorn might accidentally kill Nintai.

### The Crane Spy and Doji Jorihime

As mentioned earlier, the Scorpion had a Shosuro actor at court whose alternate persona was a Crane artisan. As a result, they had full access to the secret discussions in the Crane embassy, and were able to inflict several humiliating political defeats on the Crane early on by feeding this information to the Dragon. This directly contributed to an incident in which a senior Crane representative lost his face and disgraced himself in court, forcing him to commit seppuku.

Doji Jorihime, the niece of Seishiro, was a major force in keeping the Crane a viable faction after this disaster. As a result, she became a target for the Scorpion Clan, especially the spy Shosuro Eiriasu. At one point he stole one of her hairpins, hoping to plant it in an incriminating location, but then dithered long enough that she discovered the theft and was able to defuse the threat. Later, he attempted a much bolder stratagem by teaming up with Shosuro Higatsuku to forge a letter from Doji Domotai accusing Jorihime of being a Gozoku. This gambit ultimately failed, but it did put Jorihime out of action for a week, a significant set-back for the Crane.

### Norachai's Army

Early in court, Bayushi Norachai was appointed as Protector of the Imperial City by the Empress. He immediately attempted to create an army for the specific purpose of defending the capital city against all threats. He demanded that each Clan send 2,000 troops to form this army. This produced an intense debate among all the factions, especially since moving that many troops in winter was highly problematical. In the end, only the Mantis sent a full 2,000 men (thanks to their combination of naval mobility and substantial food surplus), and their loyalty was considered suspect. The Crab, Crane, Scorpion, and Phoenix each sent 500, with pledges that additional troops might come in the spring. (The Crab troops were moved with the assistance of the Tortoise Clan's naval assets.) The Lion attempted to send the full 2,000 (despite severe strains to the Clan's resources), however, the later eruption of war with the Unicorn prevented this from happening, as the soldiers were assigned elsewhere.

Late in the winter, Norachai left court for a time and visited Toshi Ranbo in order to better organize these troops and generally prepare for the Khan's onslaught. At that time he also officially appointed Ikoma Korin as his deputy in command of the city.

Norachai's efforts produced a serious breach between him and Bayushi Kaukatsu, who was trying to keep the Scorpion publicly neutral. As a result, Kaukatsu offi-

cially proclaimed that Norachai would no longer have any duties to the Scorpion Clan, so that they would not "stand in the way" of his important duties to the Imperial City. There was considerable anger and division within the Scorpion delegation over this and other issues, although they managed to keep most of this hidden from the other Clans.

### The East Hub Village Agreement

One of the minor issues to be resolved at Winter Court was the status of the port at East Hub Village, which was under the control of the ronin Hokatsu, leader of the East Wind otokodate. Hokatsu signed a secret agreement with the Scorpion Clan to let them have control of the port.

However, much later in Winter Court, the issue arose again when the Scorpion attempted to use it as part of an effort to forge a treaty with the Mantis and thereby acquire more food. The treaty ultimately failed, since agreement could not be reached on several issues – one of which was a Mantis attempt to proclaim the East Hub Village "unclaimed lands" so they could seize it directly. The Mantis also attempted to persuade the Imperials to let them administer the Hub Villages in order to "cleanse" them of any dangerous elements (such as ronin bands), but the Imperials ultimately balked at this. Ultimately the Mantis were granted permission to use the port as they saw fit, but were specifically restricted from taking action against the ronin currently overseeing the port.

### Saga of the Crystal Sword

Early in Winter Court, the slimy Tortoise courtier Kasuga Taman decided to smuggle a crystal katana into Kyuden Otomo in order to present it as a prestigious gift to Otomo Hoketuhime. In order to hide the sword's origins (and save himself some koku), he murdered the sailor who delivered it to him. This led to a protracted and indecisive criminal investigation by the Emerald Magistrates and their yoriki. They soon determined that Taman was the killer, but found it impossible to prove it under Rokugani law. Furthermore, one of the yoriki (Ikoma Kyoro) leaked the information on the investigation to the Lion and Imperials.

By this time, Otomo Hoketuhime had gifted the crystal katana to Ikoma Korin, in an attempt to restore his honor and spirit after a bitter public humiliation by Chancellor Kaukatsu. Since she did not wish Korin to be shamed again by the discovery that he was wearing a stolen sword, she quashed any further investigation into the matter. Taman was able to evade the consequences for his act, although his reputation was significantly damaged for the rest of Court.



### The Death of Bayushi Moyotoshi

Midway through Winter Court, the Scorpion delegate Bayushi Moyotoshi was murdered in his sleep. The killer was Moto Shikenji, a Unicorn scout who sought vengeance on Moyotoshi for the assassination of Moto Ogedai many months before. When the body was discovered, Bayushi Kaukatsu and Otomo Hoketuhime were shocked to discover that “Moyotoshi” was actually Bayushi Yojiro, the former Clan champion. This revelation was hurriedly covered up, and the investigation into the murder was assigned to Tsuruchi Kaya (who also recognized the body), and Bayushi Norachai (who did not, but strongly suspected the truth).

After several weeks of quiet investigation, the two Emerald Magistrates managed to identify the killer, and Kaya went to the Unicorn embassy to demand Shikenji be handed over for interrogation. However, by that time the Unicorn themselves had discovered that Shikenji was the killer. Moto Rumiko ordered Shikenji to write a full confession and commit seppuku.

### The Tale of Daigotsu Soetsu

The lone Shadowlands representative at Winter Court became, unsurprisingly, a major source of tension. Early in the court, the Lion and Crab delegates teamed up to demand that Soetsu not be allowed to roam freely through the castle, claiming that the protections and guards on him were insufficient. The ensuing investigation revealed the alarming fact that Soetsu (as an Enlightened being) could not be harmed by jade. However, the incident backfired on the Crab and Lion when Bayushi Kaukatsu pointed out that the protections on Soetsu were the same as those used when he was brought before the Emperor. Kaukatsu was in a position to demand the seppuku of both Ikoma Korin and Hiruma Todorii, but chose to be merciful.

Later, Soetsu became the focus of a political struggle between Kaukatsu and the Imperial Advisor, Doji Tanitsu, who claimed that he alone had the right to choose who could interview Soetsu. Meanwhile, great suspicion fell upon those who spoke with Soetsu frequently, especially Kasuga Taman, who clearly seemed interested in becoming an Ambassador to the Lost. His repeated visits to Soetsu resulted in a major confrontation in the gardens, in which Ikoma Korin came within a moment of drawing his swords and assaulting both Soetsu and his Scorpion guards.

Toward the end of Winter Court, Soetsu made several attempts to involve himself in Hida Shara's investigation into the Dark Prophet Kokujin, claiming that he had special knowledge of Kokujin's weaknesses. However, these efforts came to naught, and the Scorpion prepared to hand Soetsu over to a Phoenix Inquisitor for torture and interrogation. Soetsu, desperate to escape certain doom, broke loose and ran through the castle, slaying

numerous guards and wounding Moto Rumiko, while trying to evade his Scorpion “watcher” Shosuro Aroru. The Scorpion shugenja Soshi Ukyo finally gave his own life to delay Soetsu, stabbing him through the eye with a crystal hairpin given to him by his lover Hoshi Oki. This delayed Soetsu just long enough for Aroru to catch up and slay him.

### Higatsuku versus Kaya

Early in Winter Court, Shosuro Higatsuku mistakenly slandered the late Yasuki Hachi in court, while attacking Yasuki Miliko. Tsuruchi Kaya caught this mis-step and used it to in court to force Higatsuku's exile from court. The angry Shosuro spent the rest of Winter Court lurking outside of the castle, engaging in various sinister plots. He also left a message in the form of a cage in Kaya's office which contained a live scorpion and a dead praying mantis.

### The Scorpion-Crab Clash

During Winter Court, the Scorpion Clan repeatedly accused the Crab of making “unprovoked attacks” on their borders. The Crab denied this, initially claiming that no attacks had taken place, and later insisting that the attackers must have been bandits wearing Crab colors. Very late in the Court, the Scorpion also produced a “witness” to testify to the attacks. Unfortunately, this witness had less impact than the Scorpion might have hoped, since she seemed more interested in insulting the Crab than in proving her testimony.

### Tatsune's Retirement

After an extremely violent and bloody sparring match with Matsu Kenji, Toritaka Tatsune decided he had become too old to serve his Clan, and prepared for retirement. As part of this preparation, he gifted his katana to Kenji – an interesting and controversial choice. The two also privately agreed that, if Kenji were ever to marry and bear sons, her sons would marry into the Toritaka family (her daughters, presumably, would carry on the Matsu bloodline), and that one of Tatsune's grand-daughters would be fostered to Shiro Matsu for training.

### The Minor Clan Alliance Court Petition

Late in Winter Court, the representatives of the Minor Clan Alliance decided to try to create an “Alliance Court” within the city of Kudo. The goal was to create a central point where the Minor Clans could present a unified diplomatic front to the rest of the Empire. They proposed that Toku Kiyuko, one of Toku Inao's daughters, be appointed the governor of Kudo, with the suggestion that she take a Tortoise or Dragon husband to assist her in her duties. Although this petition was not officially approved, it did win political support from the Crab, Crane, Dragon, Mantis, and some Imperials.



### The Ten Thousand Temples

Seppun Kiharu was extremely active throughout the winter in trying to build up the Brotherhood of Shinsei for the struggles to come. He arranged the construction of new Shrines to Bishamon throughout the Empire, and also ordered rituals at all of the Empire's Shrines to Goemon to venerate the heroism of the late Toturi III. He also attempted to promote an expanded influence for a minor Fortune, the Fortune of Redemption, by building new shrines in several key cities.

In addition to these specific efforts, Kiharu also sought to launch a general recruitment drive for the Brotherhood, in order to swell the ranks of monks (especially sohei) for the violent times to come. Finally, due to his close friendship with K'mee, he attempted to offer assistance to the Nezumi by allowing some of their refugees and young into Seppun lands, even asking the rest of the Brotherhood to assist in passing Nezumi refugees on to the Seppun territories.

As an interesting side note, one of those many new shrines to Bishamon is to be built in Scorpion lands, on the location where the famine first struck their Clan. This attempt to lift the Curse of Bishamon was enacted by Soshi Ukyo.

### The Khan's March and the Departure of the Lion

Midway through Winter Court, Akodo Minako arrived with the news of the Khan's invasion of Lion lands. The Lion immediately accused the Unicorn of being traitors who were seeking the throne, while the Unicorn claimed they were simply bringing food and troops to support Norachai's army. The Chancellor, faced with conflicting testimony and no public proof of Unicorn treason, refused to proclaim the Unicorn traitors, much to the disgust of the Lion.

Soon after this event, Ikoma Korin decided he could do no more good at Winter Court, and chose to leave for the capital, taking with him as many bushi as could be spared from the Clan's embassy guards, as well as his subordinate Ikoma Tatsunori. Their departure was witnessed and praised by both Otomo Hoketuhime and Bayushi Norachai.

### Hida Shara's Quest

During the second half of Winter Court, the Emerald Magistrate Hida Shara became aware, from several sources, of the threat posed to the Empire by Kokujin, the Dark Prophet. She decided that something should be done about this, and assembled a "strike team" with the goal of first seeking the advice of Togashi Mitsui, and then hunting down and (hopefully) destroying the Dark

Prophet. Besides herself, the other planned members of the "strike team" included Hiruma Totori, Hitomi Vedau, and Asaka Meisuru. Shara also asked the blessing of ancestor Hida O-Ushi on the endeavor.

### Jiao's Blunder

After the Khan's March began, Ide Jiao (the principle Unicorn at court) took the unusual approach of privately informing certain high-ranking members of the court of the Khan's true intentions. Unfortunately, this backfired on him.

Jiao openly confessed to the Khan's plans when trying to persuade the Mantis to accept a treaty. The Mantis leaders, Moshi Amika and Tsuruchi Kaya, were furiously hostile to this, and Kaya demanded that Jiao be arrested. The only way out seemed to be for Jiao to claim he had lied about the Khan's intentions and commit seppuku in amends. Bayushi Kaukatsu, who was attempting to maintain good relations with both the Unicorn and the Imperials behind the scenes, arranged for a Shosuro actor to take Jiao's place in the seppuku ceremony. Jiao was then smuggled out of Kyuden Otomo by the Scorpion and made his way back to Unicorn lands.

## Romance and Marriage

As might be expected, Winter Court saw many romances and more than a few marriage arrangements.

**Doji Jorihime and Doji Nagori:** Doji Jorihime spent the winter fending off numerous other romantic approaches while pining after her true love Nagori. Late in Winter Court, Hoketuhime and Tanitsu jointly petitioned Doji Domotai to allow Jorihime and Nagori to be wed, and Domotai eventually approved the match.

**Yoritomo Yashinko and Agasha Shouhei:** Yashinko was the object of many attempted marriage negotiations, but ultimately preferred the Phoenix courtier/sculptor Shouhei, with whom she had pursued an awkward, amusing romance throughout Winter Court. The two were married at the end of Court as part of a Phoenix-Mantis treaty, with Shouhei taking the Yoritomo name.

**Mirumoto Tsuge and Isawa Ochiai:** Probably the most memorable romance of the entire court. The two became betrothed at the end of winter and their marriage has been confirmed by a Kotei win.





**Hida Shara and Doji Asuki:** An amusing relationship between the tough, physically aggressive Shara and the elegant, socially aggressive Asuki – the two met because they were both Emerald Magistrates and worked on many of the same investigations. They became betrothed near the end of Winter Court, but their relationship may be doomed to tragedy, since Shara is heading off to hunt Kokujin while Asuki plans to pursue investigations into the Crane Harriers.

**Soshi Ukyo and Hoshi Oki:** The obligatory tragic romance of Winter Court. Ukyo, who lost his entire family to the Rain of Blood, became smitten with the free-spirited Oki, and the two pursued a passionate affair. However, Ukyo died at the end of court helping to stop Daigotsu Soetsu, leaving a broken-hearted Oki to return to Dragon lands in mourning.

**Toku Kyoji and Akodo Minako:** The Monkey daimyo, Toku Inao, wanted to retire after learning of her brother's death, so she arranged for her son to marry. The chosen bride, Minako, was selected in part because of her relationship to Akodo Ginawa, who had, of course, once been the fighting comrade of Kyoji's father, Toku himself. The Empress herself attended the wedding, and after it was complete, Inao announced her retirement.

**Bayushi Norachai to Otomo Asami:** Asami is a niece of Otomo Hoketuhime. Early in the court, Norachai actually attempted to marry Hoketuhime, despite their difference in ages; once she politely turned this down, she offered a marriage to her niece instead. Later in court, due to his growing alliance with the Lions against the Unicorn, Norachai attempted to marry Matsu Kenji instead, but this was blocked by Bayushi Kaukatsu, who pointed out that violating an earlier commitment to the Otomo family would dishonor Norachai and damage the Scorpion Clan's position with the Imperials.



## Treaties

**Note:** We have attempted to keep the original wording of each treaty, hence the differing writing styles.

### Imperial-Yotsu Treaty

In recognition of honoured and valiant service to the Empire beyond the call of loyalty and duty, the Seppun extend to the Yotsu family the hand of friendship and continued Imperial service as a vassal family to the Seppun and the Imperial House.

As the Yotsu name was established by the Emperor and a badge of virtue, the Seppun will not request nor allow the Yotsu to change their family name. Instead, the Yotsu will be allowed to wear the mons of both families in all official capacities.

The Yotsu dojo shall remain Yotsu, but Yotsu students will be welcome in the dojo of the Seppun, as Seppun students will be welcome in the Yotsu dojo. A council of masters will determine how best the two families can learn from each other and how their martial styles may best be combined to serve the Empire.

The Seppun first request of their new vassals the following, that two of their finest samurai-ko who have just completed their gempukku be assigned to the household of Otomo Hoketuhime as her yojimbo, and two their finest samurai who have just completed their gempukku be assigned to the household of Seppun Kiharu as his yojimbo. These four samurai to be trained in the way of the Seppun miharu as well as in the school of their family.

By the grace of the Empress and under the gaze of the Ancestors and Fortunes.

### Scorpion – Unicorn Treaty

1 - The Unicorn will offer a discount in its taxes and tariffs on Scorpion merchants, so that the Scorpion might better know and understand the Unicorn, building friendship and trust through the dealings such actions will encourage.

2 - The Scorpion will offer a discount in its taxes and tariffs on Unicorn merchants, so that the Unicorn better know and understand the Unicorn, building



friendship and trust through the dealings such actions will encourage.

3 - One Bayushi will be trained at the Ide Emissary School, that the Scorpion as a whole might benefit from the wisdom gathered during centuries of travel outside the Empire.

4 - One Ide will be trained at the Bayushi Courtier School, that the Unicorn as a whole might benefit from the wisdom gleaned from the secrets of an Empire.

5 - To ensure amicable relations and continued friendship between the Scorpion and Unicorn, the two clans will agree to an exchange of hostages.

### Phoenix – Scorpion Treaty

The Scorpion hereby agree to send the Phoenix assistance in dealing with a delicate matter they wish to remain private. These aides will be able to help both political to cover up the activities of the Phoenix and militarily to assist in the application of their duties.

In exchange the Phoenix hereby agree to enter into a formal alliance with the Scorpion.

The Scorpion agree to allow Asako Inquisitors to speak with Daigotsu Soetsu upon either their arrival to Kyuden Otomo or at a later time after the spring thaw.

In exchange the Phoenix hereby agree to support the Scorpion in the courts.

----

As an aside, Kaukastu will offer up any info they learned while Soetsu was in their custody since he died before the Asako could interrogate him.

### Unicorn – Tortoise Treaty

First, the Tortoise shall spread the worship of the Shi-Tien Yen-Wang, constructing shrines along their trade routes and in their ports.

Secondly, Tortoise shall be granted access to and passage through Unicorn lands, for the purpose of conducting matters of trade.

### Oriole – Unicorn Treaty

1. The Oriole and the Unicorn shall have commerce between them, and the Unicorn shall be given preferential trade discount in the acquisition/trade of Tsi-manu-

factured blades/items. 10 percent of the output from the steel will be given/sold to the Unicorn Clan.

1.a This 10 percent of manufactured blades will consist of designs presented by the Unicorn Smithmaster, be they gaijin in origin or otherwise. The manufacture could be within Unicorn lands or in Oriole lands.

1.b The Oriole Clan reserves the right to copy these designs for their own academic purposes, and private commercial purposes, to a much, much lesser extent. It is understood though that sale of gaijin-designed weaponry is still not within the norms of the Empire, and such private trade by the Oriole, if given unfavorable light, shall be the sole responsibility of the Oriole Clan, with the Unicorn Clan disavowing any knowledge of such.

2. It has been made clear that Tsi Zutaka does not wish his creations to be turned into instruments of violence and destruction. The Unicorn Clan acknowledges the Oriole Clan in their right to cease all manufacturing of Tsi blades and weapons during Wartime, specifically, should any of the Great Clans declare war on each other. The Oriole are asking for respect in this decision without any bias or any economic or social repercussion of any kind from the Unicorn Clan. Trade of Tsi-manufactured blades and weapons will only resume once a time of peace is observed.

2.a The Oriole Clan, however, shall recognize that this applies universally to all clans they deal with, meaning if they provide someone else with weaponry, clearly intended for a specific conflict, the contract is void. In the context of war, however, defense from bandit attacks and border skirmishes (i.e. Shadowlands incursion, etc) should not nullify the two clans' agreement.

3. As a further extension of this stipulation, attached here is a copied document made by the Hantei (OOC: we don't know which one) in declaring that no Minor Clan shall make any move of aggression towards a Great Clan, and the Oriole would see manufacturing of arms during wartime as a disobedience of this Imperial Decree.

4. The Unicorn agrees to incorporate a very small number of Oriole diplomats and swordsmiths, for passage into the Burning Sands in a future expedition of the Unicorn, with the intent of reaching Medinat al-Salaam.



### Minor Clan Alliance – Scorpion Treaty

This agreement, between the Minor Clans, as represented by the daimyo of the Monkey Clan, and the Scorpion Clan, stipulates the following considerations.

The Minor Clans agree to the following:

1. To provide to the Scorpion a total of 6666 koku of rice. This commodity shall be transported as soon as possible after signing of this agreement is completed, to a delivery point that is mutually agreeable to the signatories, using transport provided under separate agreement by the Mantis Clan;

In return for the above, the Scorpion Clan agrees to the following:

1. To provide to the Minor Clans, upon their request, a future favour whose value is reasonably commensurate with the value of the rice being provided above.

### Mantis – Minor Clan Alliance Treaty

The Clans that the signers of this treaty represent shall agree and abide by the terms written here:

1) The Mantis shall pay 20,000 Koku to the Minor Clan Alliance (MCA).

2) The MCA shall distribute their surplus rice, an amount of 20,000 to the following clans as evenly as possible; The Crab Clan, The Dragon Clan, The Scorpion Clan.

3) The MCA may conduct business with the clans above, so that the appearance of the MCA doing this for themselves, rather than the choosing of the Mantis, is maintained, so long as the agreements made with said clans do not change the terms of this treaty.

4) No mention of this treaty shall be mentioned to any Clan other than the Mantis, and then only when in private situations if necessary.

5) The Mantis will use their ships, at no cost, to provide the allotted rice to the Crab Clan. Other ways of transporting the rice are left to the devices of the MCA and will be at their expense.

### Mantis – Unicorn Treaty

Thus on this day do the Unicorn and Mantis clans acknowledge their continuing economic friendship with one another. The specific provisions are as follows:

- The Unicorn shall aid the Mantis directly and indirectly in furthering their economic goals for two years.

- The Mantis shall aid the Unicorn directly and indirectly in furthering their economic for two years.

- For two years The Unicorn will offer a discount in its taxes and tariffs on Mantis merchants, so that the Mantis might better know and understand the Unicorn, building friendship and trust through the dealings such actions will encourage.

- For two years The Mantis will offer a discount in its taxes and tariffs on Unicorn merchants, so that the Unicorn might better know and understand the Mantis, building friendship and trust through the dealings such actions will encourage.

- The Unicorn shall come to the defense of the Mantis and their holdings, should they be threatened by gaijin, or shadowlands forces for five years.

- The Mantis shall come to the defense of the Unicorn and their holdings, should they be threatened by gaijin or Shadowlands forces for five years.

- For five years The Ide family will seek to welcome the Tsuruchi family to their home, should the Tsuruchi seek to come, sharing their experiences and records as magistrates of the Empire throughout the reign of Toturi I... that the noble Wasp will be better equipped in their own mission as magistrates to the Empire.

- The Unicorn will support the Mantis in their endeavors with the Imperial Families concerning East Hub Village, on the condition that the East Wind Ronin band as led by the ronin Hokatsu be allowed to continue their service to the empire to keep the peace and earn a living, so far as they obey the Law of the Empire.

- A daughter of Utaku Xieng-Chi will marry Tsuruchi Ki, (we can replace with Buntaro if needed) She will take his name and provide him an heir worth of his bow. Outside of his heir, any females born to Tsuruchi Ki (or Buntaro) shall be given the choice to join the Shiotome as Battle Maidens.

- The day Ide Tang names an heir, that heir shall take a Mantis Courtier to be his bride. She will take his name, and provide the new Ide Daimyo with an heir worthy of his steed.

### Moshi – Seppun Treaty

Moshi Amika's heir, Kyoko, and eldest niece, Kiyoko, to come to visit Seppun Kiharu and be wards of the Seppun household for as long as the Moshi shall choose. During that time, Moshi Kyoko and Kiyoko shall be considered to be part of the Seppun family and be welcome to learn from any of the Seppun schools and dojo.



It is hoped that Kiyoko will be able to find a suitable husband from among the Seppun to strengthen the ties of friendship between the Moshi and the Seppun into ties of marriage and blood.

Moshi Akimi, nephew to Moshi Akima, shall become assistant to Seppun Kiharu in his role as Master of the Ten Thousand Temples. The Seppun family to house Moshi Akimi and seek a suitable bride for him (possibly from the Monkey Clan)

### Dragon – Oriole Treaty

My Lords, most wise Togashi Satsu, Champion of the Dragon, and most esteemed Kasuga Taigen, Head of the Minor Clan Assembly:

To formalize and legitimize negotiations contracted between Hoshi Oki, representative of the Dragon Clan, and Tsi Zutaka-sama, Daimyo of the Oriole, during the span of Winter Court, I present to you this draft for the treaty listing the deals made between the two clans. I present this with the approval of Kitsuki Tadashi-sama, head of the Dragon delegation for this Winter Court.

Listed below are the terms of the agreement:

1. Tsi Jieza, daughter of the Oriole daimyo, is looking for a husband and the Dragon have offered a Mirumoto as an answer. Zutaka-sama though has expressed with sincerity that he has chosen a Crab smith to marry his daughter, and apologizes to the Dragon for this misunderstanding. The Dragon accept his decision and have instead offered to assist in the coming marriage ceremony between the two. Representatives of the Hoshi will attend for they are known to bring luck in marriages.

2. A Shrine to Bishamon, Fortune of Strength will be constructed in the village of West Hub. This will be in continuation of the Dragon's support for the Oriole, not just economically but spiritually as well. Construction costs and materials will be provided by the Seppun as this was a prize given by Seppun Kiharu to the Dragon for participating in the Bushido contest.

3. Tsi Zutaka, on behalf of the Minor Clan Delegation, has invited the Dragon Clan to attend a shugenja competition in the lands of the newly-formed Bat Clan. The Dragon Clan has graciously accepted this offer and have extended it to their allies in the Phoenix. The invitation has been sent to Tamori Shaitung and Isawa Nakamuro as a gift for their coming bethrothal. This would prompt the exchange of knowledge between the Dragon and the Phoenix with the Komori.

4. The Dragon and the Oriole will also exchange students in hopes of refining their swordsmithing knowledge. The Tamori will send a student with adequate knowledge of the new "Water Hammer" technique, in return for learning even a small fraction of what the Tsi know.

5 Lastly, yet most importantly, the Dragon are giving rights to the Oriole to mine their mountains for invaluable steel to produce their famous Tsi Blades. In exchange for this precious right, the Oriole has willingly allowed trade with the Dragon, and shall be given preferential trade discount in the aquisition/trade of Tsi-manufactured blades/items. 25 percent of the output from the steel will be given to the Dragon. That is one blade out of four produced.

It has been made clear that Tsi Zutaka does not wish his creations to be turned into instruments of violence and destruction. The Dragon Clan acknowledges the Oriole Clan in their right to cease all manufacturing of Tsi blades and weapons during Wartime, specifically, should any of the Great Clans declare war on each other. The Dragon shall respect this decision without any bias or any economic or social repercussion of any kind to the Oriole Clan

Trade of Tsi-manufactured blades and weapons will only resume once a time of peace is observed.

The Oriole Clan, however, shall recognize that this applies universally to all clans they deal with, meaning if they provide someone else with weaponry, clearly inteded for a specific conflict, the contract is void. In the context of war, however, defending ourselves from bandit attacks and border skirmishes, should not nullify the two clans' agreement.

### Dragon – Unicorn Treaty

The Clans of the Dragon and Unicorn hereby agree:

1. That a student of the Tamori shall train with a Moto priest of the Shin-Tien Yen-Wang, as is appropriate given their status as fortunes. This training shall take place on the Western Unicorn/Dragon border, to further the convenience of both parties.

2. That once hostilities have ended in their region of the Empire, the Unicorn shall construct, with Dragon blessing and aid, a shrine to the Shin-Tien Yen-Wang in Dragon territory.

### Dragon – Phoenix Treaty

Lord Togashi Satsu, Champion of the Dragon and Leader of the High House of Light, Master Wayan, Head of the Hoshi, I present to you a copy of the signed deal



between Hoshi Oki, Representative of the Dragon, and Isawa Ochiai, Master of Fire and Head of the Phoenix Delegation in Winter Court. I submit this to you in hopes that you will bless the exchange with you permission.

In hopes to further increase the exchange of knowledge and wisdom between the Phoenix and the Dragon, as well as to strengthen the growing alliance, Ochiai-sama and I have agreed to an exchange of students. One of the monks of the Order of Hoshi will be studying under the tutelage of the Asako to learn about the Phoenix, while an Asako will be studying with all of the Three Orders to learn about the Dragon.

We have agreed to send Hoshi Koichi to represent the Dragon while Asako Fumiko will represent the Phoenix.

The said student exchange will occur once spring arrives.

May the Fortunes bless this enlightening exchange.

#### **Dragon – Minor Clan Alliance Treaty**

1.) In exchange for access to the Suzume Halls, repository of knowledge of the Sparrow Clan, the Dragon Clan have generously offered free access to the Kitsuki Libraries and have agreed to support Suzume Senko-san's endeavour to be named Imperial Storyteller.

2.) The Dragon offered their services in resanctifying and rebuilding the Badger homeland and are willing to send an Ise Zumi or Tsurai Zumi advisor to Ichiro Kihongo-sama to assist him in restoring his shattered Clan to it's former stature. In return, the Badger will provide an Ichiro Yojimbo to a person of the Dragon's choosing for a period not less than the time spent in Badger lands by the Dragon advisor and allow said advisor access to Ryoshun's Tomb for purposes of studying this fortuitous find.

3.) The Dragon Clan shall carry an invitation to the Festival of Inari to be held by the Fox Clan to the Mirumoto Daimyo Mirumoto Mareshi-sama and his betrothed Mirumoto Kei-san. Kitsuki Iweko shall select one of her most able Kitsuki Investigators to act as an advisor to Kitsune Ryukan-sama and assist him in investigating the death of his sister, Ryosei no Shiryo. In gratitude for this act, the Kitsune Library shall open it's doors to the Kitsuki in an effort to spread knowledge.

4.) The Minor Clan of the Ox will enter into an arrangement with the Dragon that will see the Dragon hosting Morito Xin-Ju Ox Clan Chui, Daimyo Morito's premier defense strategist while the Ox are provided with the services of Hitomi Tsubo. Each attending the other clan

for a period of 6 months from the First day of the month of the Moon to the last day of the month of Bayushi.

5.) The Hare clan will be provided a Kitsuki Investigator to teach them the Kitsuki methods that they may be better equipped to hunt their foes the Bloodspeakers. Any yoriki he deems required to assist him will be appointed from within the Usagi so as to provide them with a better opportunity to attempt to walk the path of an Emerald or Jade Magistrate. In exchange all information discovered about the enemies of the Empire will be freely shared among the most generous Dragon Clan.

6.) In an effort symbolising the respect the Dragon and the Minor Clan Alliance have for each other, both parties agree to an open exchange of students between schools taught by the Dragon and school taught by the members of the Minor Clan Alliance to a maximum of 6 students per year.

#### **Crab – Oriole Treaty**

1. The Crab Clan and the Oriole Clan have agreed that a wedding be set for Tsi Jieza, the daughter of the Tsi Daimyo—Tsi Zutaka—and for Hida Rezan, the Kaiu-trained weaponsmith in service to the Crab. This choice is made in light of the Oriole Clan to expand their knowledge of other metalcrafts that the Kaiu are known for (such as engineering, armorsmithing, and others) without compromising the family forging secrets of the Kaiu. A date for this marriage and the assigned dowry given by both families shall be set on a later date.

2. The Oriole graciously acknowledge the gift given to them by the Crab Clan, which is the Scrolls of Taikyo, the Kaiu Engineer of great historical renown, and will honor this exchange of knowledge with utmost respect and trade secrecy, making sure that Taikyo's knowledge will be put to good use for the benefit of the Empire.

3. The Oriole and the Crab shall have commerce between them, and the Crab shall be given preferential trade discount in the aquisition/trade of Tsi-manufactured blades/items. 25 percent of the output from the steel will be given to the Crab. That is one blade out of four produced.

4. It has been made clear that Tsi Zutaka does not wish his creations to be turned into instruments of violence and destruction. The Crab Clan acknowledges the Oriole Clan in their right to cease all manufacturing of Tsi blades and weapons during Wartime, specifically, should any of the Great Clans declare war on each other. The Oriole are asking for respect in this decision without any bias or any economic or social repercussion of any kind from the Crab Clan. Trade of Tsi-manufactured



blades and weapons will only resume once a time of peace is observed.

4a. The Oriole Clan, however, shall recognize that this applies universally to all clans they deal with, meaning if they provide someone else with weaponry, clearly intended for a specific conflict, the contract is void. In the context of war, however, defense from bandit attacks and border skirmishes (such as attacks from the Shadowlands, etc.) should not nullify the two clans' agreement.

5. As a further extension of this stipulation, attached here is a copied document made by the Hantei (OOC: We don't know which one) in declaring that no Minor Clan shall make any move of aggression towards a Great Clan, and the Oriole would see manufacturing of arms during wartime as a disobedience of this Imperial Decree.

6. The Oriole Clan, with the gracious blessing of the Phoenix Clan shall provide a student within a year's time, to help the Kaiu engineers devise a mass-produced, cost-efficient weapon against the denizens of the Shadowlands, as a token gratitude for their sharing of their knowledge with the Oriole Clan.

#### **Crab – Mantis Treaty**

Whereas the Mantis Clan desires to improve its relations with its cousins the Crab Clan,

Whereas the Crab Clan desires to improve its relations with its cousins the Mantis Clan,

The Mantis Clan and the Crab Clan hereby agree to an alliance and to mutual support of each other militarily, economically, and politically.

In recognition of this alliance the following particulars are hereby agreed to:

1) That Kuni Jiyuna, Jade Magistrate and Shugenja, will marry Tsuruchi Nobumoto at the Spring Archery contest of this upcoming year, 1169, and take his name. Excluding the firstborn of this marriage, all subsequent children who show signs of the ability to speak with the Kami will be offered for training in the Kuni Dojos, and to be trained there if the Kuni judge them acceptable.

2) Any children other than the heir of the Kuni daimyo(s) during the life of this marriage who do not have the ability to speak with the kami may be offered by the Kuni to the Dojos of the Tsuchi for training, and will be trained there if the Tsuruchi judge them acceptable

3) Upon his retirement from the Emerald Magistrates Tsuruchi Kaya will offer to serve as a sensei of Kyujutsu to the Crab Dojos;

4) In recognition of the great honor the Crab do the Tsuruchi the Mantis will pay the following bridal price (whatever is "boilerplate for a daimyo's marriage) plus 10,000 Koku of Rice immediately, and promises to act in good faith to obtain another 10,000 koku of rice before fall by expanding its fishing operations or redirecting resources from other projects if at all possible.

5) In light of the famine facing the Crab the Mantis agree to patrol the Sea of Shadows for the Crab for a period of two years, with Crab navigators serving on their vessels.

6) The Mantis grant to Crab vessels 5 years relief from tariffs at Mantis ports except the East Hub Village Port where such relief will be for a two year renewable term in compliance with the terms of the treaty with the Imperial Families,

7) The Crab grant to Mantis vessels 5 years relief from tariffs at Crab ports save any one port of their choice where they may designate it as a 2 year renewable term,

8) For two years the Crab will provide two detachments of Kaiu Engineers with Yasuki support, one to assist with the recovery efforts of the Imperial City and Villages as described by (reference to Imperial/Mantis Treaty), the other to assist with building the Kyuden on the Broken Wave Islands off the Coast of the Phoenix Clan, and any appropriate ancillary projects.

9) The Crab will provide a suitable wife for Yoritomo Buntaro from the Crab Yasuki Line to take his name;

10) The Mantis will provide a suitable wife for Yasuki Jin Kuen (or Yukinaga) from the Yoritomo to take his name.

#### **Crab – Unicorn Treaty**

Thus on this day do the Unicorn and Crab clans pledge friendship to one another! The specific provisions are as follows:

- The Unicorn shall aid the Crab directly and indirectly in furthering their goals... be they economic, political, or military.

- The Crab shall aid the Unicorn directly and indirectly in furthering their goals... be they economic or political.



- The Unicorn shall come to the defense of the Crab and their holdings, should they be threatened by outside forces.

- The Crab shall come to the defense of the Unicorn and their holdings, should they be threatened by outside forces.

- The Unicorn will offer a discount in its taxes and tariffs on Crab merchants, so that the Crab might better know and understand the Unicorn, building friendship and trust through the dealings such actions will encourage.

- A daughter of Utaku Xieng-Chi, a shiotome born and raised, will be wed to Hida Daizu; she will take his name, and provide the man with an heir worthy of his blades. Outside of his heir, any females born to Hida Daizu shall be given the choice to join the Shiotome as Battle Maidens.

- Hiruma Sakimi, heroine of the Battle at the Tomb, will be wed to Horiuchi Nobane; she will take his name, and provide the Commander of the Eighth Legion with an heir worthy of his steed.

- To ensure good relations and continued friendship between the Crab and Unicorn, the two clans will agree to an exchange of hostages. Shinjo Haruko, sister of Shinjo Shono, will be kept in Crab lands; under the guard of the Hiruma family. Toritaka Kaiketsu, heir of the Toritaka family, will be kept in Unicorn lands; under the guard of the Moto family.

- The Crab shall send a Kuni shugenja of their choosing to be trained in Unicorn lands by either the Shi-Tien Yen-Wang or Moto Death Priests. This Kuni shugenja shall have free reign to train other Kuni shugenja in the same arts upon completion of training.

- The Unicorn shall construct a temple dedicated to the Lords of Death within Crab lands. The Unicorn are responsible for all costs in construction of the temple, and the Crab reserve the right to choose where the temple shall be located.

#### **Crab – Lion Treaty**

By the grace of the Most Glorious Empress, Toturi Kurako, and the blessings of the heavens, do the Lion Clan and the Crab Clan hereby agree to the following:

The Lion shall send five hundred samurai to assist with the Crab in their endeavors. In addition to these

shall be a number of officers trained in the ways of the Akodo to both learn and teach in the command structure. These shall be sent immediately upon the onset of spring.

The Crab shall send five hundred samurai to assist the Lion in their endeavors. In addition to these shall be a number of Kaiu trained in the arts of seigecraft and fortification to both teach and to employ their skills as deemed necessary by the Lion, as well as a minimum of one sensei of the Hiruma to assist in the training of runners, couriers, and scouts. These shall be sent upon the arrival of the Lion.

The number of samurai of all varieties and specialties sent to either clan shall be equal, but no less than five hundred capable bushi in number.

The Lion that are to serve with the Crab will be accompanied by sufficient provisions to not be a burden upon the Crab. The Crab that are to serve with the Lion will be provisioned by the Lion hosting them.

The Lion sent to serve with the Crab will take no part in conflicts with the Scorpion unless such an act has been endorsed by Imperial Authority, and will not be used to patrol the border with the Scorpion. They will otherwise fall into the chain of command as deemed fit by the daimyo of the Crab.

The Crab sent to serve the Lion cannot be compelled to take part in any offensive military action unless such an act has been endorsed by Imperial Authority. The Lion that are assigned above the visiting Crab will have the right to request such assistance, and the Crab in service to the Lion will have the right to decline to take part, but should they accept, the acceptance will constitute a waiver of this selective immunity until such time as this treaty expires, the goal of the mission is accomplished, or their Lion commanders release them from service. At the request of any daimyo of the Crab or Lion, such service may be reviewed for the purpose of determining an additional opportunity to re-instate this capacity to refuse orders.

Upon request by the daimyo of the Crab Clan or a representative thereof, the soldier exchange portion of this agreement may be placed upon hold for a temporary basis for any amount of time necessary so that the soldiers of the Crab serving beneath Lion banners may return to take part in their ever-vital duties in opposing the forces of the Shadowlands, pending agreement and approval of the daimyo of the Lion Clan, or a suitable representative thereof. In the event that the aforementioned hiatus of troop exchange occurs, those soldiers of the Lion serving beneath the banners of the Crab will be presented the opportunity to return to their original



duties or to voluntarily remain under the command of the Crab to further assist with their endeavors. If the soldiers of the Lion elect to remain under the command of the Crab in this situation, they will be treated with the respect due to their station, obey all commands as directed by their superiors among the Crab, and their provisions will be the responsibility of the Crab Clan for this time until the soldier exchange portion of the treaty resumes. Those Crab placed in command of the Lion troops may elect to decline the voluntary extension of service if they are placed in a situation to offer it, at which point those soldiers of the Lion would return to their original duties in Lion lands.

In such a situation as the troop exchange portion of this treaty is suspended, either the daimyo of the Crab Clan or the Lion Clan may elect to re-evaluate the treaty in its entirety, at such point in time its terms may be altered and re-implementation of this treaty would require the approval of the daimyo of both clans in question, or their appointed representatives.

In addition, for the duration of this treaty, all merchants traveling up the Oboreshinu Boekishi Kawa and Kawa Mitsu Kishi rivers will be granted immunity to blockades and considered as friendly once the inspections are complete. Such merchants owing allegiance to the Yasuki, or other families of the Crab Clan will be allowed to travel and trade with the waiver of one-half the current tariffs so long as their path involves travel along the listed water routes and their final destination for trade lies within the lands of the Lion Clan.

For the duration of this treaty, merchants owing allegiance to the Yasuki or other families of the Crab Clan will be also considered to be friendly, and while traveling across land routes they will be given an option of carrying messages between the Beiden Outpost on the west side of the mountains, and either Kyukachu Mura or Shiro Matsu. Should they elect to do this, a waiver of one-half of the tariffs due will be implemented. The carrying of messages and reports will not alter their classification or allegiance, and will retain the status of the Crab Clan at large, should the relations of the Crab Clan or Lion Clan change throughout the duration of this treaty.

### Crane – Phoenix Treaty

Agreement between the Crane and Phoenix Clans in reaffirming their Alliance.

The Crane delegation to Winter Court in agreement with the Phoenix delegation – does hereby propose the following so as to reaffirm their Alliance:

- That the Crane shall supply the Phoenix with 30,000 koku of Rice, 20,000 to be sent initially, 10,000 to be

sent at spring thaw. The Crane will transport the initial shipment of 20,000 koku of rice to East Hub Village and the Phoenix will take responsibility from there. The second shipment will be delivered by the Crane to Toshi no Omoidasu. This rice is for the Phoenix's use and will not be divided with the Dragon or Scorpion by actions of the Phoenix.

- That the Crane will provide troops at the Phoenix's request to fight with the Phoenix against the enemies of the Empire when all peaceful avenues have been exhausted.

- That the Phoenix will allow <a fair number> of Crane to be trained by the Isawa in the ways of the kami in order that the Phoenix's reverence for the kami and peace might be seen through the Crane. Once the training of these students is underway, to continue fostering good relations between our Clans additional mutual exchanges of students will be undertaken, among the schools of our Clans.

- That the Phoenix will allow <a fair number> of questions to be answered at the Isawa libraries by the Crane in order that the Phoenix's great wisdom might benefit the Empire through the Crane.

- That the Crane will be permitted to establish a Trade Embassy in Toshi no Omoidasu so that both Clans might grow in prosperity through the exchange of their resources for the Empire's benefit.

- That the Phoenix will provide troops at the Crane's request to fight with the Crane against the enemies of the Empire when all peaceful avenues have been exhausted. The Phoenix will not be called upon to attack the Dragon or the Scorpion by the Crane.

- Should the Phoenix or Crane take the field against the other in a conflict this treaty will no longer be binding.

- To affirm this treaty two marriages will be held at the discretion of the Elemental Council and Doji Domotai to bring the Clans closer together in the spirit of peace and friendship that has long guided them. Through these unions a Crane will marry into the Phoenix and a Phoenix into the Crane.

In all these things, do the Crane and Phoenix delegations intend to strengthen the bond between both Great Clans and further peace in the Empire.



### Crab – Tortoise Treaty

1) The Crab shall send a number of Kaiu engineers to Badger lands, to assist the Badger in the rebuilding of their home.

2) The Tortoise shall receive access to Yasuki trade routes.

3) The Tortoise shall welcome the Yasuki aboard their ships and within their ports, allowing them to benefit from the Tortoise's protection, as well as the trust afforded to the Tortoise by the Mantis Clan.

## A Final Thank You

We at AEG would like to thank the Heroes of Rokugan Team for their efforts in this year's Winter Court Play by Post event. With their tireless devotion to the L5R RPG this could never have happened.

We would also like to thank all of the players, both those in the Winter Court and those observing, for their excitement and dedication to their Clans. Banzai!

## More About L5R

Interested in Learning More about L5R? Visit our web site at [L5R.com](http://L5R.com). There you can see all our current RPG products, as well as the long-running L5R CCG. You can even take a quiz to determine the right Clan for you! Legend of the Five Rings is the game where the players tell the story, and change the game in ways both great and small. Choose your Clan, draw your blade, and bring glory to your ancestors! Banzai!

